FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Lanaya Montague
LáLew Public Relations
Email: lanaya@lalewpr.com
510-695-9758
www.lalewpr.com

Ted Freeman Homecoming: Descendant of Auburn, New York, Co-founders Returns Home to Launch Book Tour

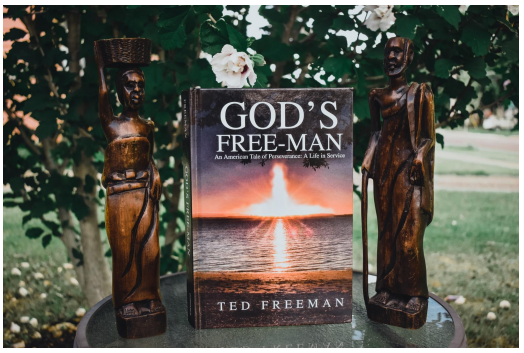
AUBURN, NY — Pastor Ted Freeman, Jr., descendant of Auburn's co-founders Harry and Kate Freeman, is soon to return to Auburn for an unforgettable homecoming during International Underground Railroad Month.

From Sept. 14–17, 2022, Freeman will host events across Auburn sharing his new book, *God's Free-man, An American Tale of Perseverance: A Life in Service*. Freeman calls his book "a historical presentation guided by God that delineates the capture of Harry and Kate Freeman." He explains how the Freemans were captured as slaves from Guinea, Africa, but lived as indentured servants in the young village of Auburn and founded New Guinea, one of the first Black settlements in Upstate New York.

Freeman's deep dive into his family history shows the importance of the first Black families to the development of Auburn into a city and how Harry and Kate created a monumental Underground Railroad terminal.

The public is invited to join Ted Freeman throughout his free book tour by attending these local gatherings:

Wednesday, September 14 at 6 p.m.
Planting and Nurturing Love: Meet and Greet
Booker T. Washington Community Center (**23 Chapman Avenue, Auburn, NY 13021)**
Donations to the center are welcomed.



Thursday, September 15 at 10 a.m.
Completing the Puzzle: Key to the City of Auburn Ceremony
Memorial City Hall (**24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021**)

Mayor Quill will present Ted Freeman with keys to the city.

Thursday, September 15 at 3:30 p.m.
Honoring Auntie Harriet, a Woman of Courage: Discussion
Harriet Tubman Home (**180 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021**)
Donations to the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. are encouraged.

Saturday, September 17 at 1 p.m.
Supporting Each Other Through Love: God's Free-Man Book Talk & Signing
Auburn Public Theater (**8 Exchange Street, Auburn, NY 13021**)
Donations to the theater are encouraged.

Media or press outlets interested in interviewing Ted Freeman, please contact Courtney Rae Kasper at courtney@auburndowntown.org or Lanaya Montague at lanaya@lalewpr.com.

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About the Author
Ted Freeman is an honored alumni of Villanova University and received one of their highest awards available to alumni in 1984, the Medallion of Excellence, the second African American to receive the award. The first being Chief Justice Robert Nix of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He began his career working with street gangs in West Philadelphia at the Haverford Community Center, 39th and Wallace. He was then led to return to Auburn, New York, as the director of the Booker T. Washington Community Center in his old neighborhood. Freeman has been involved with the National Urban League Movement for the past forty-six years. Starting in Rochester, NY, he became the president and CEO of the Urban League of Hudson County in Jersey City, New Jersey. After retirement, he relocated to Orlando, Florida, and became a board member of the Metropolitan Orlando Urban League. For Freeman, family is his everything. He is a husband, married to his pillar of strength, Rhonda L. Freeman, a father, a grandfather, and a great-grandfather. He has one other previously published book, Acquiring Wisdom.

Support for this program is provided by the City of Auburn's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation of funds to support the City of Auburn Historic and Cultural Sites Commission's Harriet Tubman Bicentennial project with a goal of boosting the recovery from the pandemic for the tourism, travel, and hospitality industry.